

## Capsule Summary

SM-433

Elam Stoltzfus House

Mechanicsville vicinity

Private

1949

The Elam Stoltzfus House is significant as a representative example of the type of housing built and inhabited by the Amish community in northern St. Mary's County. Both the form and material of this plain, two-story, three-bay structure are typical of other Amish homes in the area. An active center of agricultural, commercial, and social activity, the Elam Stoltzfus farmstead epitomizes the important role of the Amish home in both the Amish and English communities of St. Mary's County.

Many of the first Amish immigrants to St. Mary's County purchased farmsteads which were already improved with dwelling houses. Over time, Amish families began to build new homes for themselves, designed to suit their particular social and religious needs. The Elam Stoltzfus House was one of the first houses built by the Amish in St. Mary's County. Elam and Mary Stoltzfus purchased this property from Ninian and Pauline Barber in 1940. In 1949 Stoltzfus erected the house with the aid of several other Amish men who specialized in construction. Most of the wood for the house was provided by the Samuel R. Stoltzfus sawmill.

SM-433 Elam Stoltzfus House  
St. Mary's County  
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Plan Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period: Modern Period, 1930 - present.

Historic Period Theme: Architecture  
Social/Education/Cultural

Resource Type

Category: Structure

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use: Residence

Known Design Source: None

**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SM-433  
~~SM-406~~  
Magi No.  
DOE yes no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Elam Stoltzfu House

**2. Location**

street & number 4570 Thompson Corner Road not for publication

city, town Mechanicsville X vicinity of congressional district 5

state Md. county St. Mary's

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u>  </u> district	<u>  </u> public	<u>X</u> occupied	<u>X</u> agriculture <u>  </u> museum
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	<u>  </u> unoccupied	<u>  </u> commercial <u>  </u> park
<u>  </u> structure	<u>  </u> both	<u>  </u> work in progress	<u>  </u> educational <u>X</u> private residence
<u>  </u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>  </u> entertainment <u>  </u> religious
<u>  </u> object	<u>  </u> in process	<u>X</u> yes: restricted	<u>  </u> government <u>  </u> scientific
	<u>  </u> being considered	<u>  </u> yes: unrestricted	<u>  </u> industrial <u>  </u> transportation
	<u>X</u> not applicable	<u>  </u> no	<u>  </u> military <u>  </u> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Samuel J. and Magdalena Stoltzfu.

street & number 4570 Thompson Corner Road telephone no.:

city, town Mechanicsville state and zip code Md 20659

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clerk of Court liber DBK 164

street & number St. Mary's County Courthouse folio 236

city, town Leonardtwn state MD.

**6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys**

title

date    federal    state    county    local

pository for survey records

city, town    state

## 7. Description

Survey No.

SM-433  
SM-706**Condition**

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

**Check one**

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

**Check one**

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

The Elam Stoltzfus House is located at the end of an unpaved road on the north side of Thompson Corner Road in the Mechanicsville vicinity of St. Mary's County. The house stands on a slight rise in the landscape and is surrounded by grazing fields on the north and east, and by outbuildings on the west. Greenhouses and a small shop offering quilts for sale are located on the south side of the house next to Thompson Corner Road. The house faces south with its principal gable oriented on an east/west axis.

Constructed in 1949, the Elam Stoltzfus House is a two-story, three-bay frame house sheathed with vinyl siding and roofed with seamed metal. The house has a cinderblock foundation and a full basement.

The south (main) elevation has an enclosed porch across most of the first floor which is lit by three one-over-one sash windows. A small portion of the porch's west end remains open and acts as a portico supported by square posts and square balusters. One bay of the main block is visible under the portico. This bay is lit by one six-over-six sash window. A stove pipe projects from the center of the enclosed porch's shed roof. The second floor of the south elevation is lit by three one-over-one sash windows.

The east elevation of the enclosed porch is lit by one one-over-one sash window. The east end of the main block is pierced by three one-over-one sash windows on the first floor and two on the second floor. An exterior, common bond chimney stack stands against the exterior of this gable end. A one-story addition extends to the north of the house. This addition is lit by two one-over-one sash windows.

The north elevation of the one-story addition is lit by two one-over-one sash windows. An exterior cinderblock chimney stands against this wing. One bay of the main block's first floor extends west of the addition and is lit by one one-over-one sash window. One one-over-one sash window is visible at the second floor level of the main block.

The west elevation of the northern one-story addition is pierced by an entrance door and two one-over-one sash windows. A porch extends across the west side of this addition. The porch has a cement floor and is supported by square posts. The west elevation of the main block is pierced at the basement level by a vertical panel door leading into the basement. The first floor is lit by three one-over-one sash windows. The second floor is lit by two one-over-one sash windows, while the attic is

## 8. Significance

Survey No. ~~SM-406~~ SM-433

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1949 **Builder/Architect** Elam Stoltzfus et al.

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Elam Stoltzfus House is significant as a representative example of the type of housing built and inhabited by the Amish community in northern St. Mary's County. Both the form and material of this plain, two-story, three-bay structure are typical of other Amish homes in the area. An active center of agricultural, commercial, and social activity, the Elam Stoltzfus farmstead epitomizes the important role of the Amish home in both the Amish and English communities of St. Mary's County.

Many of the first Amish immigrants to St. Mary's County purchased farmsteads which were already improved with dwelling houses. Over time, Amish families began to build new homes for themselves, designed to suit their particular social and religious needs. The Elam Stoltzfus House was one of the first houses built by the Amish in St. Mary's County. Elam and Mary Stoltzfus purchased this property from Ninian and Pauline Barber in 1940. In 1949 Stoltzfus erected the house with the aid of several other Amish men who specialized in construction. Most of the wood for the house was provided by the Samuel R. Stoltzfus sawmill.

Amish farmsteads on the St. Mary's County landscape are probably most distinctive because they lack electrical and telephone lines, and television antennas. Generally, they are also surrounded by many supporting outbuildings. The house is usually a two-story, three-bay, frame structure sheathed with white artificial siding and roofed with metal or asphalt shingles. Sometimes these houses are distinctly assymetrical since the need for interior space takes precedence over the concern for exterior form. The house usually has a considerable setback from the road and is surrounded by cultivated fields and outbuildings. Small shops where crafts, plants, or produce is sold or signs advertising objects for sale are often located at the foot of the property next to the public road.

The home is the cornerstone of Amish life. Yet, Amish architecture is not rigidly uniform in the same way that Amish dress or buggy styles tend to be. The types of materials employed depends upon availability, economy, and geography, while the form of a home is directly related to its function in the community. Since the Amish

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-406

Samuel Stoltzfus, Personal Interview, May 1994

Stephen Scott, Amish Houses and Barns. (Intercourse, PA; Good Books, 1992).

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 3 acresQuadrangle name Charlotte HallQuadrangle scale 1:24 000UTM References do NOT complete UTM referencesA 

Zone	Easting					Northing			

B 

Zone	Easting					Northing			

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Three acres surrounding house and outbuildings

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Hughes, Historic Sites Surveyororganization St. Mary's County DPZ date May 1994street & number  telephone (301) 475-4662city or town Leonardtown state Md.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
514-7600

**SM-433 Elam Stoltzfus House**  
**St. Mary's County**  
**7.1 Description**

lit by two two-over-two sash windows. To the south of the main block extends the enclosed porch, pierced by a modern entrance door and one-over-one sash window on the porch's west end. This is the main entrance door to the house.

The first floor interior of the house consists of five rooms: the enclosed porch, kitchen, main parlor, and two bedrooms. The second floor consists of four bedrooms. Double doors connect the porch and kitchen to the main parlor. These doors are opened up in order to create a large interior space for use during social and religious occasions. Interior finishes consist of plain window and door surrounds. The kitchen is wainscoted with pine paneling below the chair rail.

Outbuildings on the Stoltzfus property consist of a large barn for beef cattle, two chicken houses, a silo, a stable, and a variety of storage sheds. These outbuildings are roofed with metal and sheathed with artificial and vertical board siding. A water storage tank and a windmill are located on the west side of the house.

**SM-433 Elam Stoltzfus House**  
**St. Mary's County**  
**8.2 Significance**

have no church buildings, funeral parlors, recreation halls, or nursing homes, the functions of all these facilities take place in the home. Ideally, the interior arrangement of the Amish house will allow for the creation of large open areas for social and religious occasions. In the Stoltzfus House, double doors are located between the first floor parlor, kitchen, and enclosed porch which can then be opened to create a large interior space.

Today, about one hundred and thirty Amish Old Order families live in the St. Mary's County communities of Charlotte Hall and Mechanicsville. These families emigrated here from Lancaster and Mifflin County, Pennsylvania in 1939 in search of less expensive land and less prohibitive home-schooling requirements. Their economic base is divided between livestock, tobacco, hay, sawmilling, carpentry, crafts, quilts and textiles, and furniture making. After fifty years in this area, the Amish community is now threatened by rising land prices, development sprawl, and increased area traffic.

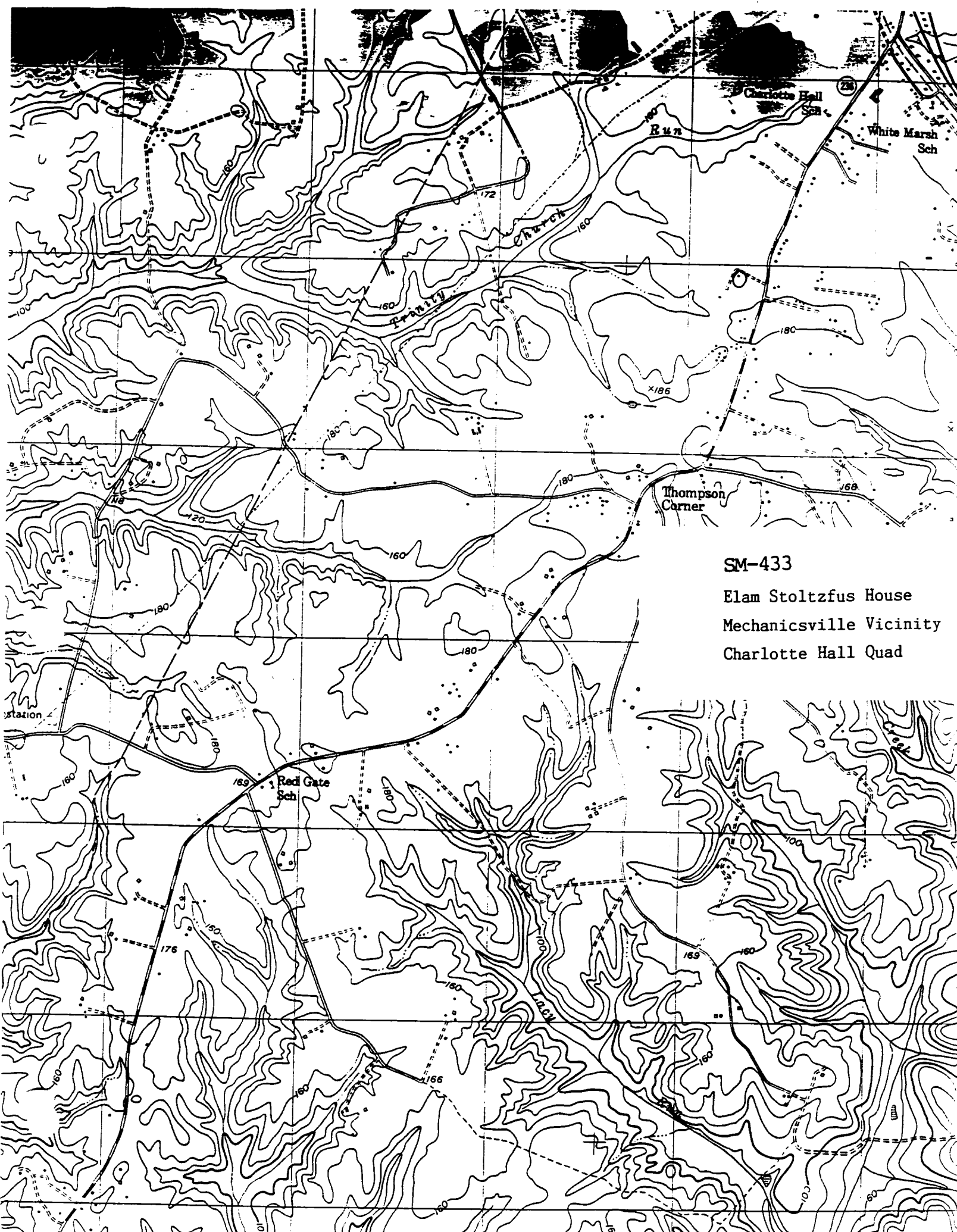


**SM-433 Elam Stoltzfus House**  
**St. Mary's County**  
**8.1 Significance**

**Chain of Title**

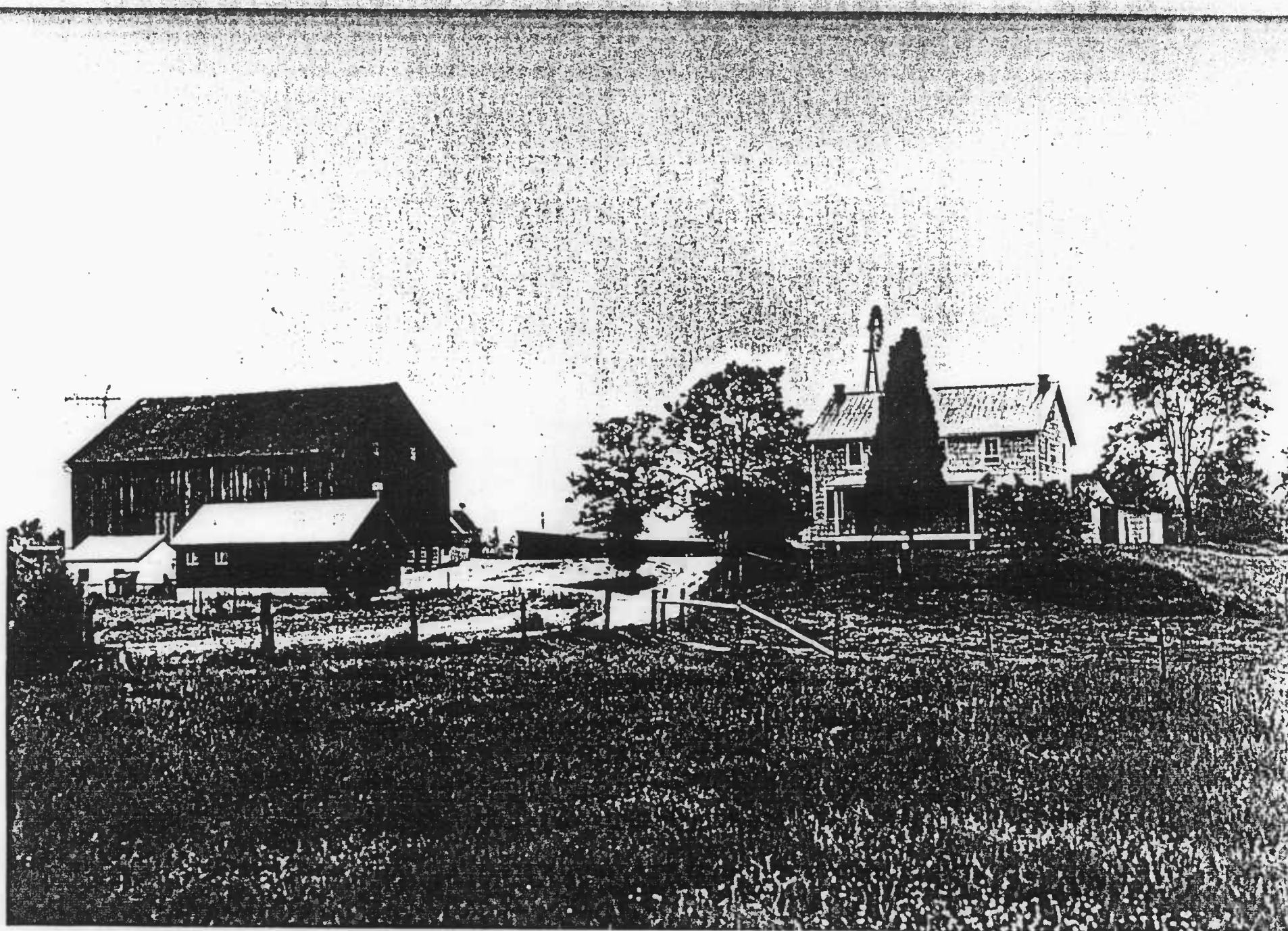
**TO:** Samuel J. and Magdalena Stoltzfus  
**FROM:** Elam D. and Mary Stoltzfus  
**RECORD:** St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber DBK 164, folio 236.  
**DATE:** December 17, 1970.  
**NOTES:** Transfer of "Arabia" and "Locke's Venture" being about 130 acres.

**TO:** Elam D. and Mary Stoltzfus  
**FROM:** Ninian P. and Pauline B. Barber  
**RECORD:** St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 12, folio 135.  
**DATE:** April 2, 1940.  
**NOTES:** Transfer of "Arabia" and "Locke's Venture" being about 132 acres. The same as JMM 10/430.



SM-433

Elam Stoltzfus House  
Mechanicsville Vicinity  
Charlotte Hall Quad



Source: LIVING IN ST. MARY'S COUNTY: HD PICTURE PORTFOLIO SERIES, VOL. 18  
 STATE BD. OF ED, 1967. CMH

SM-433



